

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13, 15-19 and 21-23 remain in the application, of which claims 1, 9, 13 and 17 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 have been amended herein. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled herein.

Claims 13, 15-19, 21 and 22 have been deemed allowable.

Claims 7-9 are objected to but deemed otherwise allowable if amended to include their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-12 stand rejected either under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

By this amendment, for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 9 to include subject matter from claims deemed allowable.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Thus, applicants submit that each of the claims of the present application are patentable over each of the references of record, either taken alone, or in any proposed hypothetical combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to the claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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